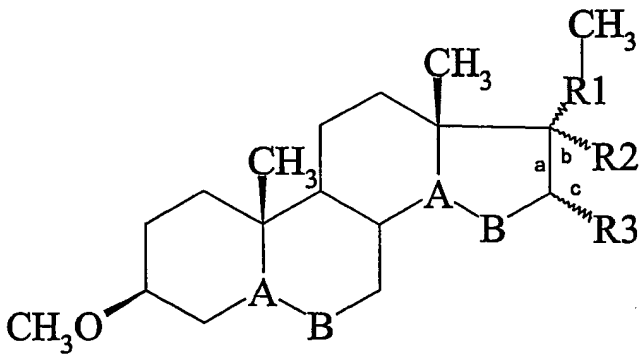
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

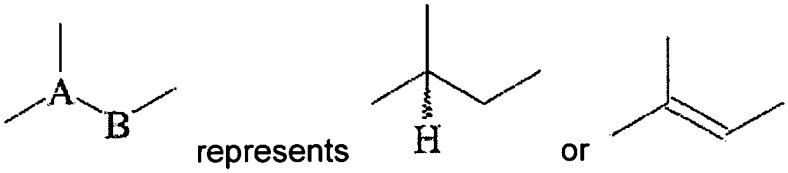
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an acute or chronic lesion or a degenerative disease of the nervous system by stimulating the polymerization and/or the stabilization of microtubules in a patient, comprising the administration to said patient of an effective quantity of a drug comprising ~~The administration of~~ 3β-methoxy-pregna-5-ene-20-one (3-methoxy-PREG) or a molecule derived from pregnenolone that contains a 3-methoxy function and is incapable of being converted into a metabolite or ester sulfate of pregnenolone, ~~for the preparation of a drug to stimulate the polymerization and/or the stabilization of microtubules to treat an acute or chronic lesion or a degenerative disease of the nervous system, with the aforementioned~~ wherein said molecule derived from pregnenolone ~~presenting~~ is of formula I:



(I)

in which:



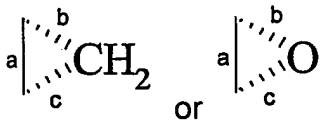
represents or

R1 = –CO–; –CH(OH)– or –CH(O-$COCH_3$)–

R2 = H or $CHCl_2$,

R3 = H or CH_3, or

R2 and R3 together form a ring:



2. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said disease or lesion is selected from the group comprising Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, age-induced memory loss, memory loss induced by the taking of substances, a traumatic lesion, a cerebral lesion, a lesion of the spinal cord, in particular medullary compression, ischemia, pain, notably neuritic pain, nerve degeneration, and multiple sclerosis.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug also comprises an excipient that makes it possible to formulate the ~~aforementioned~~ molecule derived from pregnenolone to cross the blood-brain barrier.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~one of the~~claim[[s]] 1-~~to 3~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug is ~~presented in an~~ administered by ~~injectable~~ injection ~~form~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~one of the~~claim[[s]] 1-~~to 3~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug is ~~presented in an~~ administered orally.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~one of the~~claim[[s]] 1-~~to 5~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said molecule of formula I is 3-methoxy-PREG.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 , wherein said molecule of formula I is 3β-methoxy-pregna-5-ene-20-one-17α-dichloromethyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~one of the~~claim[[s]] 1-~~to 7~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug comprises a quantity of 3-methoxy-~~pregnenolone~~PREG or of said molecule of formula I ~~a derived molecule~~ ranging between 50 and 2500 mg.

9. (Currently Amended) A drug consisting of 3-methoxy-~~pregnenolone~~PREG ~~as a drug~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising 3-methoxy-~~pregnenolone~~PREG or a molecule derived from pregnenolone that contains a 3-methoxy function of general formula I as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

11. (Withdrawn) An in vitro method for increasing the stabilization and/or inducing the polymerization of the microtubules in a cell, comprising the step of exposing the aforementioned cell to the presence of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone at a concentration of approximately 0.5 to 50 µmol.

12. (Withdrawn) An in vitro method for increasing neuritic sprouting in a cell, comprising the step of exposing the aforementioned cell to the presence of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone at a concentration of approximately 0.5 to 50 µmol.